



**Testimony in Support of SB 753**  
**An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining**  
**Legislative Districts**

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Juliana Calvert. I am a resident of New Haven and am testifying to communicate my strong support for Connecticut SB 753, *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining Legislative Districts*.

I recognize the importance of fair and free elections in upholding the most basic values of our democracy. Gerrymandering directly contradicts these values by inflating the influence of certain groups while unfairly silencing others. Counting incarcerated persons as part of the population of these districts is a blatant inflation of the districts' electoral impact.

Stopping the practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the districts in which their correctional facilities are located is imperative to increasing the representativeness of Connecticut's General Assembly. The counting of incarcerated persons, the vast majority of whom cannot vote, as members of the legislative districts in which their carceral facilities are located affords inappropriate electoral power to said districts. Moreover, incarcerated persons who can vote must do so in the districts where they lived prior to incarceration. The status quo inaccurately invests legislative authority and exacerbates racial inequities in government, given that Connecticut districts housing correctional facilities have a far higher proportion of white voters than compared to local incarcerated populations.

Connecticut already acknowledges home districts as the political residency of the few incarcerated persons who can vote. CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 9-14, 9-14a actually *prohibits* these voters from claiming residence for voting purposes in the district in which they are incarcerated. Thus incarcerated individuals don't even have the ability to vote in the districts where they are counted as part of the population. This means that, since districts are drawn based on population size, the electoral power of other individuals in these districts has a greater impact than it should since they are essentially voting on behalf of these incarcerated individuals. The whole situation

has an eerie resemblance to the Three Fifths compromise which is absolutely unacceptable.

Based on 2010 US Census data, the ideal Senate district size is 99,280 residents. Senate District 7 contained 102,622 residents as of 2011. When incarcerated persons are counted as residents of their home districts the District 7 population decreases to 94,692. This shows that incarceration inflates the population, and thereby the voting power, of District 7 by 7.73%, diluting the voting power of other districts in the state.

Every Connecticut resident deserves equal representation in the state legislature. I ask the committee to consider passing S.B. 753 to enshrine that same principle in law.

Sincerely,

Juliana Calvert  
New Haven, CT